Alberta Economy

Indicators at a Glance

Economic Activity

In 2016, Alberta's real GDP by industry fell by 3.8%, the largest drop among the provinces for the second year in a row. The Alberta Activity Index held steady in April and has climbed 7.6% since the bottom reached in May 2016.

Population

Alberta's population was 4,291,980 as of April 1, 2017, an increase of 1.4% from the year prior. Canada's population grew 1.2% from a year ago.

Migration

Net migration to Alberta was 4,693 in the first quarter of 2017. During this time, Alberta welcomed 7,085 net international migrants. However, there was a net outflow of interprovincial migrants (-2,392), the sixth consecutive quarterly decline.

NEW: Employment[1]

Alberta added 7,500 jobs in June. The gains were in part-time positions (+18,800) while full-time positions (-11,400) were down. Employment increased 2.2% year-over-year (y/y).

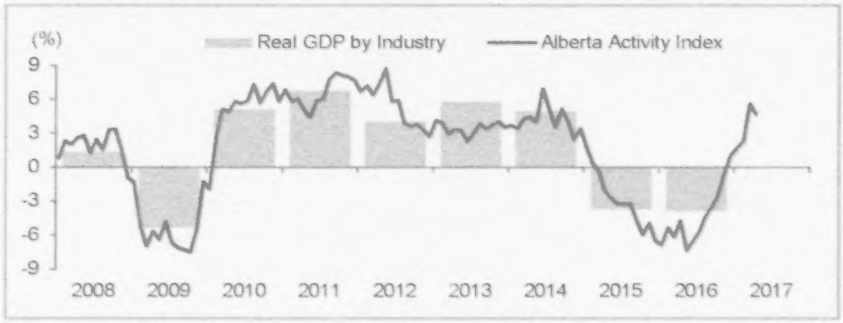
NEW: Unemployment Rate[1]

Alberta's unemployment rate ticked down 0.4 percentage points to 7.4% in June. Canada's unemployment rate went down to 6.5%.

Rigs Drilling

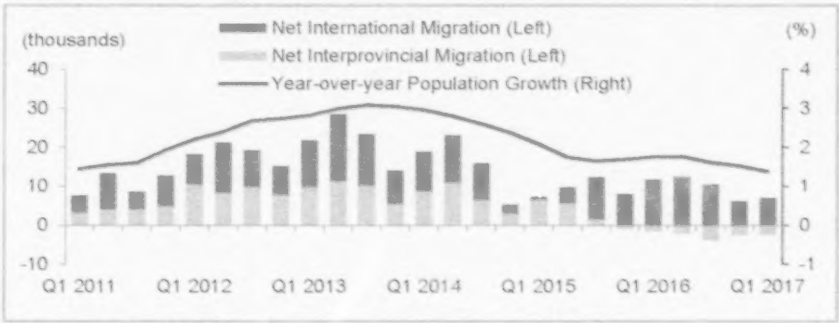
The number of active rigs in Alberta averaged 87 in June, 56% below the height of the winter drilling season in January but up 113% from the same month last year.

Economic Activity
Year-over-year % change



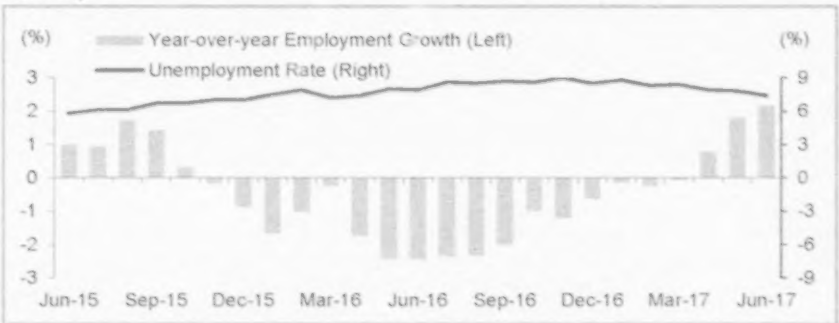
Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

Demographics
Quarterly



Source: Statistics Canada

Labour Market
Monthly



Source: Statistics Canada

Inflation

The Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.2% y/y in May down from 1.7% in April, as energy prices declined. The Canadian inflation rate also fell in May to 1.3%.

Average Weekly Earnings[1]

Average weekly earnings (AWE) in Alberta grew by 0.6% in April to $1,126. Both goods (+0.4% m/m) and service sector earnings (+0.7% m/m) posted gains.

Retail Sales[1]

Alberta retail sales increased by 0.5% m/m to $6.7 billion in April. Retail sales grew 6.0% y/y, the fifth consecutive month of gains.

Housing Starts[1]

Alberta housing starts were up 4.0% m/m in May to 32,707 units (annualized). Housing starts increased 48% y/y. Single-family starts rose 47% y/y and multi-family starts were up 57% y/y.

New Housing Price Index

Alberta's New Housing Price Index (NHPI) edged down 0.1% in April and was down 0.5% y/y. The house-only component was down 1.2% y/y, while land prices were up 0.8% y/y.

NEW: Building Permits[1]

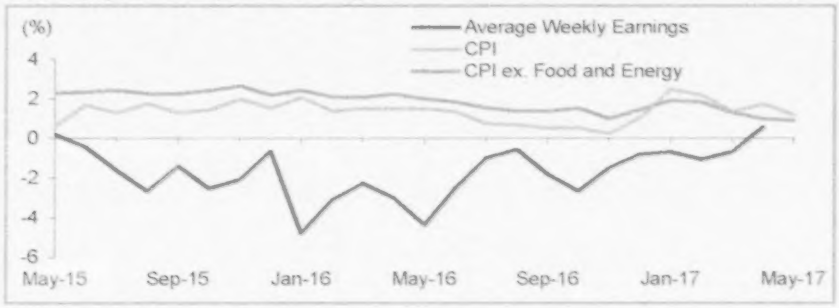
Alberta building permits increased 18% m/m in May to $1.2 billion. Building permits were up 16% y/y. Non-residential permits dropped 5.3% y/y and residential permits increased 34% y/y.

[1] Seasonally adjusted

Contact

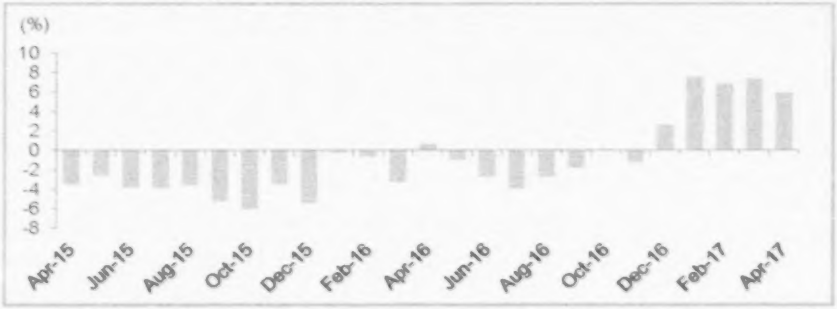
Wade Tymchak 780.415.0825

Inflation and Earnings
Monthly, year-over-year % change



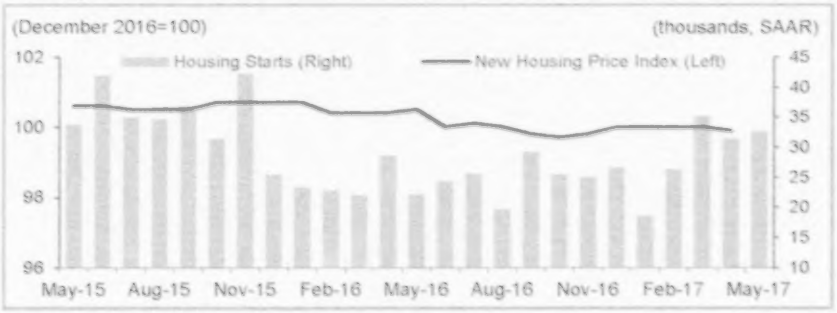
Source: Statistics Canada

Retail Sales
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

Housing Market
Monthly

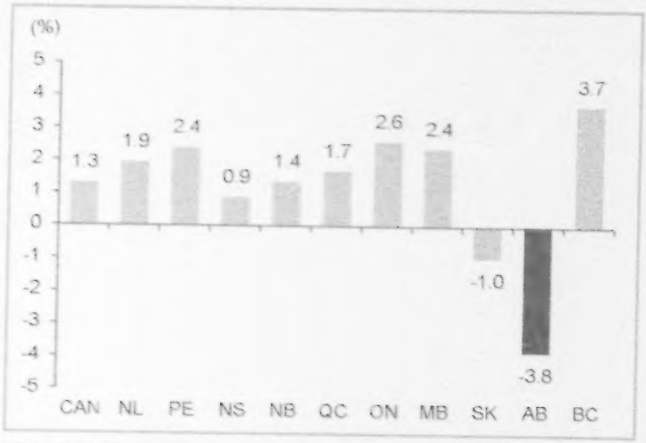


Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

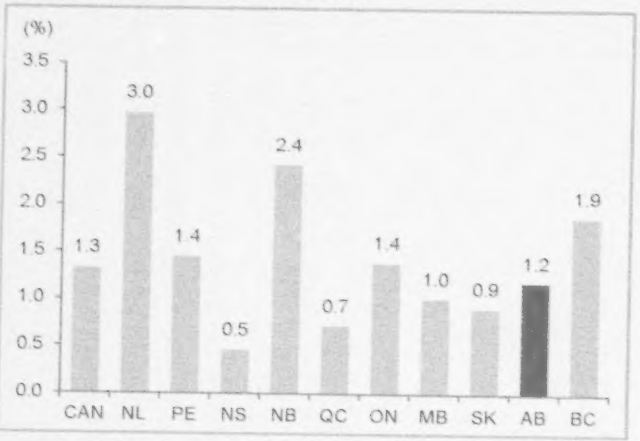
	Canadian Dollar (USc/$CAN)	WTI Oil ($US/bbl)	NYMEX Natural Gas ($US/MMBtu)	Alberta Reference Price ($C/GJ)
Latest (July 6, 2017)	77.04	45.52	2.89	2.34 (April)
Fiscal year-to-date	74.35	46.05	3.03	1.34

Please see the *Weekly Economic Review* for current analysis on the Alberta economy.

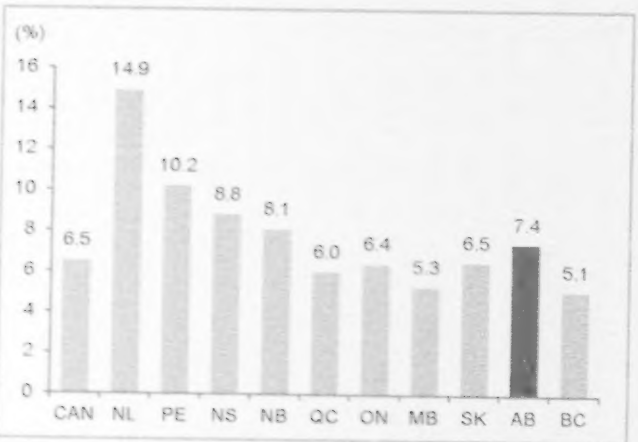
Real GDP by Industry
(2016, year-over-year growth)



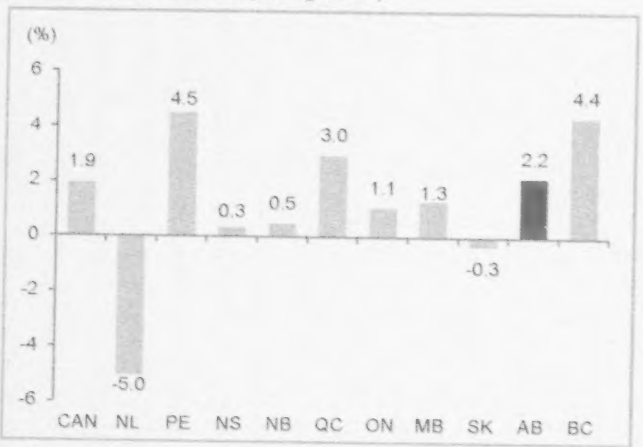
CPI Inflation
(May 2017, year-over-year growth)



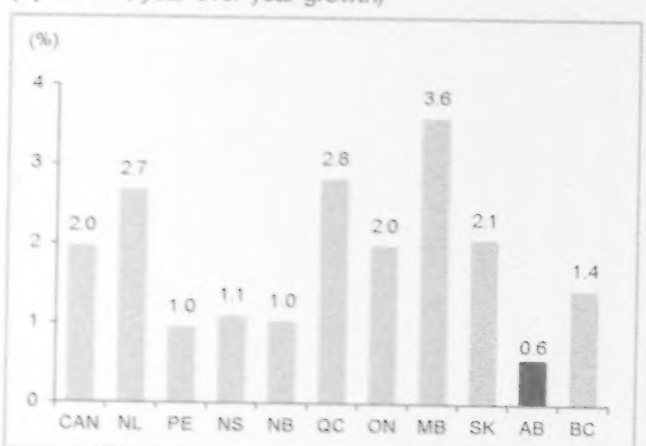
Unemployment Rate
(June 2017)



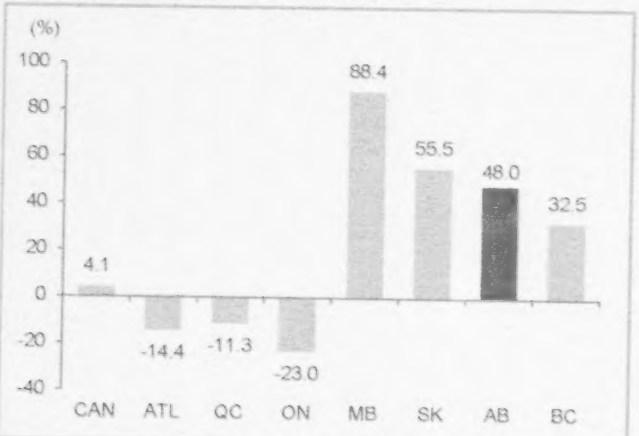
Employment
(June 2017, year-over-year growth)



Average Weekly Earnings
(April 2017, year-over-year growth)



Housing Starts
(May 2017, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



Alberta Economic Indicators

	2015	2016	2017YTD	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17
Alberta Activity Index (y/y % change)	3.0	4.4	3.6	1.7	2.3	5.6	4.7		
Population[1]									
Population (thousands)	4,180	4,263	4,292	4,280			4,292		
y/y % change	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.5			1.4		
Net Interprovincial Migration	21,594	2,677	8,815	2,573			2,392		
Net International Migration	16,743	43,041	23,657	6,128			7,085		
Labour Market									
NEW Employment (thousands, SA)	2,301	2,264	2,284	2,268	2,280	2,280	2,289	2,291	2,299
m/m change (thousands)				0.2	1.3	20.4	0.3	2.1	7.5
y/y % change	1.2	-1.6	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.8	1.8	2.2
NEW Unemployment Rate (%, SA)	6.0	8.1	8.1	8.8	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.8	7.4
NEW Participation Rate (%, SA)	73.0	72.5	72.7	72.9	72.5	73.1	72.7	72.5	72.4
Average Weekly Earnings ($, SA)	1,146	1,119	1,116	1,111	1,109	1,119	1,126		
y/y % change	0.3	-2.4	0.5	0.7	1.1	-0.1	0.6		
Household Sector									
Retail Sales ($ million, SA)	76,019	75,110	26,629	6,655	6,666	6,638	6,670		
y/y % change	-4.0	-1.2	6.9	7.5	6.9	7.3	6.0		
New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	242	224	78	15	17	23	24		
y/y % change	-12.7	-7.6	10.5	3.4	5.4	15.1	15.0		
Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	1.1	1.1	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.3	1.7	1.2	
Excluding Food & Energy	2.3	1.7	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.9	
Housing Starts, SAAR, (000's)	37.3	24.5	28.9	18.6	26.3	35.2	31.5	32.7	
y/y % change	-8.1	-34.2	21.4	20.1	15.8	59.3	9.8	48.0	
New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5		
Resale Home Sales	56,225	51,959	23,851	4,754	4,974	4,790	4,814	4,519	
y/y % change	-21.3	-7.6	13.4	15.8	24.7	13.8	10.6	3.9	
Sales to New Listing Ratio	0.52	0.49	0.52	0.56	0.57	0.52	0.51	0.45	
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ thousands)	394	395	398	394	390	402	401	402	
y/y % change	-1.9	0.4	2.5	2.7	1.0	4.0	2.6	2.2	
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	4,280	5,427	1,728	391	426	504	407		
y/y % change	10.9	26.8	-8.5	0.3	-11.8	-7.1	18.6		
Business Sector									
NEW Goods Exports (customs based,$ million)	92,441	79,134	43,310	8,546	8,192	9,229	8,409	8,935	
y/y % change	-24.0	14.4	45.7	19.4	40.2	61.8	56.7	59.1	
NEW Energy Products ($ million)	62,500	51,760	30,579	6,205	6,041	6,577	5,752	6,004	
y/y% change	-31.5	17.2	66.8	30.1	64.8	91.9	82.8	91.1	
NEW Agricultural Products ($ million)	6,474	6,269	3,174	631	527	695	613	708	
y/y % change	0.2	-3.2	18.2	30.2	8.1	22.3	0.3	33.0	
Rigs Drilling	120	79	128	199	188	148	85	61	87
y/y% change	-52.6	34.0	106.0	65.7	67.0	227.6	193.9	143.7	112.8
Manufacturing Shipments ($ million, SA)	68,483	62,560	23,192	5,641	5,717	5,830	6,005		
y/y% change	-13.9	-8.6	15.4	13.0	15.8	16.7	15.8		
Wholesale Trade ($ million, SA)	79,380	71,765	25,401	6,216	6,336	6,434	6,414		
y/y% change	-6.3	-9.6	5.2	1.0	5.8	8.1	8.2		
NEW Building Permits ($ million, SA)	16,753	14,200	5,636	1,221	1,117	1,112	1,002	1,184	
y/y% change	-8.2	15.2	3.9	9.0	22.1	10.0	-21.7	16.1	
NEW Residential Permits ($ million, SA)	9,876	7,930	3,391	625	661	695	662	747	
y/y % change	8.8	-19.7	12.0	-1.6	1.7	36.7	1.8	33.8	
NEW Non-Residential Permits ($ million, SA)	6,877	6,270	2,245	596	456	417	340	437	
y/y% change	-7.4	8.8	-20.9	22.9	-41.8	17.1	-43.8	5.3	
Non-Res Building Cons Price Index[2] (y/y % change)	0.7	-2.8	-0.9			-0.9			

[1] Population data presented on a census year basis (July 1– June 30). The current census year 2017.

[2] Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

YTD YTD (year-to-date). "SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR" denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate.

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except the Alberta Activity Index (Alberta Treasury Board and Finance), Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).All historical data are subject to revision